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Boat safely and keep Wisconsin waters clean

MADISON - With warming weather and the May 7 fishing opener luring more people to Wisconsin lakes and rivers, anglers, boaters, kayakers and canoeists are reminded to take steps to ensure their personal safety and to avoid accidentally spreading invasive species to new waters.

"Keep yourself safe, and keep the waters clean for future boaters and anglers," says Ron Martin, who coordinates Department of Natural Resources efforts to control aquatic invasive species.

The most common way that zebra mussels, Eurasian water-milfoil and other invasive aquatic species spread from infested waters to new waters is aboard boats, trailers or in live wells and bait buckets and other water recreational equipment. Cleaning boats and other water-related recreation equipment of any plant fragments or animals before launching and after the day is over can prevent new waters from becoming infested.

Tips for staying safe on the water

Cold water temperatures, unpredictable weather, and higher springtime water flows on Wisconsin rivers and streams all increase potential boating hazards at this time of year, boating and dam safety expert says. People particularly need to use caution around the 3,700 dams in the state, says Meg Galloway, DNR state dam safety engineer.

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Safety around dams is such an important issue that Gov. Jim Doyle proclaimed the first week in May Dam Safety Awareness Week.

Even dams that are only a few feet high are extremely dangerous because of the hydraulics they produce. If a person capsizes a boat near them, they can be pulled to the dam and continue to be rolled over as they get trapped in the water hydraulics.

In 2004, 24 people died on Wisconsin waters in accidents involving motor boats, canoes, kayaks, sailboats, and personal watercraft, according to Bill Engfer, DNR recreational safety chief. Two of those fatalities involved incidents with dams. Already in 2005, Engfer says, five people have been killed in boating incidents.

Galloway and Engfer provide the following tips to help boaters stay safe on Wisconsin waters and near dams.

- Dress in layers that can be peeled off and put back on as the temperature dictates.
- Wear a personal flotation device.
- Be aware that river water levels will be higher and currents faster in spring. Boat within your capabilities and watch carefully for branches and other debris carried into the water by snowmelt or runoff and avoid anything that appears to be floating on the water.
- Be aware of weather conditions before leaving shore, and take along a weather radio or regular radio or tune into the marine band's weather channel. Return to shore if a steady increase in wind or thick dense clouds signal approaching storms.
- Be familiar with the waterbody on which you plan to boat, be aware of potential natural and manmade hazards. Check DNR's online maps showing the location of the state's, 3,700 dams. Go to DNR's Web site at <http://www.dnr.wi.gov>, then use the drop down topic menu and click on Dam Safety.
- Obey all warning signs, barriers and flashing lights, horns and sirens by dams; .
- Leave your boat motor running to provide maneuvering power.
- Stay clear of spillways; changing currents and "boiling" waves can make boat control difficult near dams. Reverse currents occur below dams, they can pull a boat back toward the dam into the spillway and capsize it.
- Never anchor boats below a dam because water levels can change rapidly.

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Tips to avoid spreading invasive species to your favorite lake or stream

Zebra mussels, Eurasian water milfoil and rusty crayfish are among the invasive species spreading to Wisconsin's inland waters and disrupting ecosystems and recreation. These aquatic invaders typically have no natural competitors, and so once established on a lake, can be very difficult to control, Martin says.

To date, 58 inland waters have been confirmed as having zebra mussel infestations, more than 400 lakes have Eurasian water-milfoil, the same number of lakes have rusty crawfish, 24 waters have rainbow smelt, and the Gile Flowage has spiny water flea, Martin says.

"The vast majority of Wisconsin's 15,000 inland lakes and 50,000-plus miles of perennial streams do not have zebra mussels, Eurasian water-milfoil and some of our other most publicized and problematic invasive species," Martin says. "We want to keep it that way, and the way you do that is by making sure that you don't launch your boat or leave a water with any plants or animals attached to it."

To avoid accidentally transporting invasive species to other waters, before launching your boat and after leaving the boat launch at the end of the day:

- Inspect and remove aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat and equipment before leaving the water access;
- Drain water from boat and equipment (motor, bilge, live wells, and bait containers) before leaving the water access;
- Dispose of unwanted bait in the trash;
- Spray/rinse boats and recreational equipment with high pressure and/or hot tap water;
- Dry boats and equipment thoroughly for at least five days before launching into a different water body.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: on invasive species contact Ron Martin (608) 266-9270; on boating safety contact Bill Engfer (608) 264-0859; on dam safety contact Meg Galloway (608) 266-7014

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Deer seasons set in CWD management zones

Natural Resources Board approves either sex hunting

PRAIRIE DU CHIEN, Wis. – Bow hunters will be able to harvest a deer of either sex during the early archery season in chronic wasting disease (CWD) management zones, under rules approved April 27 by the state Natural Resources Board.

The bow season was included in a number of CWD hunting rule modifications the board considered during its regular monthly meeting, which was held at Prairie du Chien.

The decision to allow either sex hunting resulted from a compromise measure offered by the Wisconsin Conservation Congress. Congress Chair Steve Oestreicher, Harshaw, said the “compromise modification” to the CWD rule “provides for both bow and gun hunters alike and gives both an either sex option equally.”

Under the department’s initial proposal, bow hunters in CWD zones would have needed to meet earn-a-buck (EAB) requirements during the early season, with the season framework switching to either sex beginning on the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

Bill VanderZouwen, Chief of the Wildlife and Landscape Ecology Section, also described the agency’s proposals as a compromise in light of the agency’s philosophy that “CWD control is more important than short-term recreational issues.”

Nevertheless, VanderZouwen told the board that the agency was not opposed to the Congress’ bow hunting season alternative and would incorporate it in the Department’s CWD deer season package. That package now includes either-sex bow hunting in the zones from Sept. 17 through Oct. 26; either sex hunting for both gun and bow from Nov. 19 through Jan. 3; and a short five-day season split of the gun season in the two Disease Eradication Zones (DEZ) prior to the Nov. 19 traditional gun deer season opening day.

Earlier, CWD project leader Alan Crossley, Fitchburg, gave the Board an update on CWD management in Wisconsin. Among the “challenges” facing wildlife biologists are carcass disposal costs, keeping hunters afield in the CWD zones, and deer “refuges” in the DEZs.

“Statewide surveys continue to show that 70 to 80 percent of Wisconsin hunters think CWD should be eliminated from the wild deer herd, but that doesn’t mean that 70 to 80 percent are in lock step with how we are going about it. We have to continue to learn and adapt,” Crossley told the Board.

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Crossley said it is important to stay the management course towards eradicating CWD from Wisconsin's wild deer herd because:

- There is no scientific evidence that CWD will burn itself out if left alone.
- Virtually all white-tailed deer in Wisconsin are genetically susceptible to CWD.
- A simulation model suggest that if left unmanaged over the next 10-30 years, CWD will spread throughout Wisconsin and disease prevalence will increase to more than 40 percent of adult deer.
- Deer hunter surveys suggest nearly half would stop hunting if prevalence increases to 50 percent.

The Board unanimously approved DNR's proposed changes in the CWD hunting rules, incorporating the Conservation Congress bow season alternative. Among the approved changes are:

- Expanding the two DEZs in southwest and southeast Wisconsin around newly identified CWD positive deer.
- Removing most of the Richland County portion from the western DEZ.
- Expanding the CWD Herd Reduction Zone (HRZ) to include all of Deer Management Unit 76A.
- Creating a five day split in both DEZ gun seasons so that there is no gun deer hunting five days prior to the Saturday before Thanksgiving, the 'traditional' deer season opener.
- Allowing an antlerless deer harvested in any EAB unit be used to earn an antlered buck hunting authority in any EAB unit.
- Establishing a deer hunting season for Belmont Mound State Park, which is located in the HRZ.

The bow and gun seasons for the DEZs and HRZ this fall are:

Gun Disease Eradication Zone

- Oct. 27 – Nov. 13 EAB
- Nov. 19 – Jan. 3 Either Sex

Gun Herd Reduction Zone

- Oct. 27 – Oct. 31 EAB
- Nov. 19 – Jan. 3 Either Sex

Archery Disease Eradication Zone and Herd Reduction Zone

- Sept. 17 – Oct. 26 Either Sex
- Oct. 27 – Nov. 18 EAB
- Nov. 19 – Jan. 3 Either Sex

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Vander Zouwen, Section Chief, Wildlife & Landscape Ecology, Madison - (608) 266-8840 or Alan Crossley, CWD Project Chief, Fitchburg - (608) 275-3242

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Clean Air Month marks start of ozone season in Wisconsin

MADISON – The warmer, sunnier weather that ushers in the month of May can also bring the onset of the ground-level ozone season, which typically runs from May through September in Wisconsin. To spotlight the potential adverse health effects associated with increased ground level ozone, the American Lung Association has designated May as Clean Air Month.

“On hot, summer days, emissions from cars, power plants, large factories and other sources react in the presence of sunlight to form ground-level ozone that is harmful to people’s health,” explains Larry Bruss, Ozone Section Chief with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). “These emissions come from car exhaust and smoke stacks, and the evaporation of organic chemicals like gasoline and the solvents in paint, otherwise known as volatile organic compounds or VOCs.”

Ground-level ozone – the main component of smog – is chemically equivalent to the ozone in the upper atmosphere (called the ‘ozone layer’) that protects the earth from harmful ultraviolet radiation. Unlike the “good” atmospheric ozone, ground-level ozone is dangerous because it’s located at the surface where we can breathe it. High concentrations of ozone in the air we breathe can trigger health problems such as chest pain and coughing, and can aggravate conditions like asthma, bronchitis, heart disease and emphysema. Everyone is affected by poor air quality. Those who are especially at risk are children, people with existing respiratory problems, the elderly, and even healthy adults who spend a lot of time outdoors or engage in vigorous physical activity outside. Crops and other vegetation can also be damaged by ground-level ozone.

Air quality changes every day, but being informed so you can keep your family healthy and on the go is as easy as checking the weather page of the newspaper or calling Wisconsin’s Daily Air Hotline at 1-866-DAILY AIR to find out the Air Quality Index (AQI) for the day. The AQI is a color-coded scale that shows how much ozone and other pollutants, like fine particles, are in the air each day. The Wisconsin DNR uses the AQI to report air quality at monitoring sites around the state. When the AQI goes above 100, or into the orange range, the air quality is considered “unhealthy for sensitive groups.” If the AQI goes above 100 at any monitor in Wisconsin, the DNR issues an air quality health advisory for the county where the monitor is located and any nearby counties that are experiencing the same air quality problem.

The DNR is now sending out e-mail notices of air quality health advisories. Notices are only sent out when monitoring equipment detects unhealthy pollution levels in one or more regions of Wisconsin. To sign up for the e-mail notification system, go to the DNR web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/health/listserv.html>. The current air quality conditions as reported by DNR monitors can be found at: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/air/wisards/state.htm>.

While Wisconsin’s air quality has improved dramatically since the late 1980s, there is still room for improvement. For the past ten summers, the DNR has been notifying people in southeastern Wisconsin of potentially high ozone levels. Meteorologists from DNR and its counterparts in Michigan, Illinois and Indiana forecast an Ozone Action Day (OAD) when weather conditions and ozone monitoring data suggest ozone pollution may reach unhealthy levels in the Lake Michigan region on the following day.

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Although the last few summers have produced fewer forecasts of OADs than a decade ago, there is no way of telling what this summer's weather will be like.

When an Ozone Action Day is announced, everyone is encouraged to take steps to help reduce the production of ground-level ozone. Such steps include:

- filling vehicle gas tanks later in the day (when ozone is less likely to form);
- making sure the gas cap is on tightly; turning it until it clicks three to five times insures a good seal;
- car pooling instead of driving alone;
- combining errands to reduce driving time;
- riding the bus or a bike instead of driving;
- postponing lawn mowing and other gasoline-powered activities until evening;
- keeping gasoline engines well tuned; and
- conserving electricity as much as possible around the house and at work.

Each spring, students in southeastern Wisconsin schools have another way to promote ozone-reducing actions by participating in the "School + Business = Clean Air" program, and poster and poetry contest. The program, originated by the Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air, area teachers and the DNR, offers curriculum materials designed to teach children the value of clean air and how to preserve it. This year, 18 businesses, 14 schools and 375 students participated by entering posters in the contest. In the poetry contest, 30 students submitted entries. Nick R. of St. John Nepomuk School in Racine, won first place honors in the poster contest and Jenna C., from St. Mary School in Kenosha won the poetry contest. For more information on the School + Business = Clean Air program, contact Jessica Laub of the DNR at (414) 263-8367.

The Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air – a consortium of Wisconsin businesses, community organizations, schools, government agencies and citizens committed to improving air quality through voluntary actions – will be presenting their awards at a "Clean Air Extravaganza" on Thursday, May 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at the new Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee. The annual Wisconsin Partners for Clean Air Recognition Award honors outstanding voluntary efforts to keep the air clean, such as increasing opportunities for employees to use public transit and rescheduling industrial operations to help reduce ozone-forming pollutants. For more information about the 2005 Clean Air Extravaganza, contact Jessica Lawent at (414) 263-8653.

To check air quality in your county and to find out if an Ozone Action Day has been announced, call the DNR's toll-free Daily Air Hotline at 1-866-DAILY AIR. For more information on air quality and Ozone Action Days programs nationwide, visit the Federal interagency air quality web site:

<http://airnow.gov>.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Larry Bruss - (608) 267-7543, or
Jerry Medinger - (414) 267-7543.

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International Migratory Bird Day May 14

2005 focus on threat to migratory birds from collisions with towers, windows, and wind turbines

MADISON – The observance in Wisconsin of an international day intended to draw attention to the plight of migratory birds will focus on the threat migratory birds face from possible collisions with a variety of obstacles they encounter during their migrations.

May 14 has been designated nationwide as *International Migratory Bird Day* in an effort to draw attention to the many threats facing migratory bird species.

Each spring, hundreds of thousands of birds return to Wisconsin from Mexico and Central and South America. These birds are called neotropical migrants, named after the Neotropics where they spend the winter. *International Migratory Bird Day* traditionally is scheduled to coincide with return of neotropical migrant birds to Wisconsin. These birds include some duck and raptor species and many shorebird, waterbird, and songbird species. Probably the most prominent songbirds are the warblers, says DNR ornithologist Sumner Matteson, of which close to 35 species may be observed in Wisconsin.

“They are the crown jewels of the bird world,” he says. “Each May they transform Wisconsin’s woods and woodlots with song and color. Many stay only a few days at a time before continuing north, and while they are here they seldom linger in one spot because they flit from tree to tree or shrub to shrub gleaning insects from leaves and bark.”

There is concern that populations of these birds are declining primarily due to habitat loss, but also due to other threats such as increasing numbers of cell phone and other radio towers, wind turbines, and even windows of large buildings or homes.

“I’ve seen some dramatic video from Chicago showing migrating songbirds becoming disoriented by bright building lights at night and crashing into skyscraper windows,” says Matteson. “This is nothing new, especially to bird watchers in the Chicago region who have known about this problem for years. It’s only been recently, however, that the city’s “Lights Out” campaign, which is a cooperative program during spring and fall migration involving the City of Chicago, building owners, and conservationists, is becoming more widely known and appreciated in saving the lives of thousands of songbirds. Perhaps the same type of program can occur in our cities.” For more information on Chicago’s “Lights Out” campaign, see the Audubon Chicago Region’s Web site at <<http://www.lightsout.audubon.org>>.

Additional materials and resources, including the booklet called “Collisions”, are available from the IMBD Web site <<http://www.birdday.org>>.

International Migratory Bird Day activities are sponsored by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative, the Wisconsin Society for Ornithology, the Milwaukee County Zoo, Wisconsin DNR, Madison Audubon Society, Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Riveredge Nature Center, National Park Service, and several other organizations. More information about events can be found on the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative Web site at: <<http://www.wisconsinbirds.org/events.htm>>

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Karen Etter Hale at (608) 255-2473 or

Sumner Matteson - (608) 266-1571

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2005 International Migratory Bird Day Events

Events are listed by area in Wisconsin: southeast, northeast, central, north & northwest, and south & southwest. Most are free, but not all, so be sure to check *further information* to see if pre-registration is required or if there is a fee.

SOUTHEAST Wisconsin

- **Bird - Building Collisions:** Volunteers Needed, Milwaukee County, May 2005; shortly after sunrise. Sponsored by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. Volunteers are needed to collect dead and injured migrant birds in downtown Milwaukee, and transport the birds to researchers and rehabbers as part of a new effort by the Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. For more information: <http://home.wi.rr.com/phunter1/birdcollisionmonitormilw.html>
- **Birdathon/Bandathon,** Riveredge Nature Center, Newburg, Ozaukee County, Saturday, **May 14;** 6 a.m. - 4 p.m., sponsored by Riveredge Bird Club. Spend all or part of the day trying to see as many species as possible. OR observe bird banding. For more information: Mary Holleback, lavonne@riveredge.us, (262) 375-2715 Ext: 129; <http://www.riveredge.us>.
- **International Migratory Bird Day at the Zoo,** Milwaukee County Zoo, Saturday, **May 14;** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. sponsored by The Milwaukee County Zoo & The Zoological Society of Milwaukee. This year's Bird Day, themed "Clear the Way! Reducing Bird Deaths From Collisions," examines the hazards birds face as they migrate and explains how humans can help. The Milwaukee County Zoo, in conjunction with the Zoological Society of Milwaukee, will hold free activities for children and adults that focus on the importance of protecting migratory birds and their habitats, including Federal Duck Stamp artwork exhibition, bird banding, the migration game, and bird woodcarving demonstrations. For more information: Kim Smith, ksmith@milwcnty.com, (414) 256-5457; <http://www.zoosociety.org/>.
- **Milwaukee/Ozaukee May Bird Count**, Milwaukee/Ozaukee Counties, Saturday, **May 14.** For more information: Mark Korducki, korducki@earthlink.net, (262)784-2712.
- **Bird banding,** The Urban Ecology Center, 1500 E Park Place, Milwaukee, Saturday, **May 14;** 6 a.m. - 11 a.m., sponsored by Urban Ecology Center. For an up-close and personal birding experience, join us as we mist-net and band birds migrating through Riverside Park. Please register in advance if you plan to come before 9 a.m. For more information: Tim Vargo, tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org, (414) 964-8505.
- **Night birding on the tower,** The Urban Ecology Center (UEC), Saturday, **May 14;** 8:30 – 10:00 p.m., sponsored by Urban Ecology Center. Join Paul Hunter, Lake Park Friends, and UEC research coordinator, Tim Vargo, perched atop the UEC's observation tower as we look & listen for night-time migrating birds. It could get chilly, so bring warm clothes. There will also be an educational display for people to see first-hand different methods of deterring birds from striking windows, with information they can bring home themselves. For more information: Tim Vargo, tvargo@urbanecologycenter.org, (414) 964-8505.
- **8th Annual Horicon Marsh Bird Festival,** Horicon Marsh, N7725 Hwy 28, Horicon, Friday - Monday, **May 6-9,** sponsored by Horicon Marsh Bird Club. Four full days of events at this 32,000 acre freshwater cattail marsh, a major resting or nesting stop for over 280 bird species, and the first designated Important Bird Area in Wisconsin. Events include boat tours, bird hikes, the Big Sit, bird banding, bird id, slide shows, birds of prey, and much more. For more information: (920) 387-7860; http://www.horiconmarshbirdclub.com/birdfest/event_detail.cfm?view=1, <http://www.marshmelodies.com> or pres@horiconmarshbirdclub.com.
- **Spring Bird Walks,** Schlitz Audubon Nature Center, Saturdays, **May 7, 14 (IMBD), and 21;** 7:30-9:30 a.m. (free, but pre-registration required), sponsored by Schlitz Audubon Nature Center. Join avid birder Paul Boyer during the peak of spring migration for a series of early morning bird walks. Meet in the parking lot. In case of inclement weather, the walks will be cancelled. For more information: (414) 352-2880, Ext. 0; <http://www.schlitzauduboncenter.com/specialevents.html>.

For more information on events in the *Milwaukee area*, see calendar at <http://clean-water.uwex.edu/activities> or contact Cheryl Nenn, Riverkeeper/Project Director, Friends of Milwaukee's Rivers, cheryl_nenn@mkeriverkeeper.org, (414) 287-0207; <http://www.mkeriverkeeper.org>.

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Northeast Wisconsin

- **Winnebago County May & IMBD counts**, Winnebago County, Saturday, **May 14**, sponsored by Oshkosh Bird Club. Any interested birders are always welcome to join the effort. For more information: Tom Ziebell, (920) 235-0326, <ctiebell@new.rr.com>.
- **Spring Bird Count**, Sheboygan County, Sunday, **May 15**, sponsored by Sheboygan County Audubon Society. For more information: June Platz, president, <jcatbird@bytehead.com>, (920) 565-2577.
- **International Migratory Bird Day**, Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary, Saturday & Sunday, **May 14-15**, sponsored by Bay Beach Wildlife Sanctuary & U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Events include: 6:30 a.m. bird walk; dedication of "Habitat-House" at 1 p.m.; rehabilitated songbirds at the Resch Conservation Wing; rehabilitated eagles, hawks, falcons, owls and vultures on the Raptor Trail; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service exhibit on bird migration - all on May 14. On May 15, there is a Wildlife Day event 1-4 p.m. and a publicity release covering the nesting pair of wild eagles viewed from the Observation Building. For more information: (920) 391-3671 <<http://www.baybeachwildlife.com/>>.
- **Woodland Dunes Bird Breakfast**, Woodland Dunes Nature Center, Highway 310 just west of Two Rivers, Saturday, **May 14**; 8-11 a.m., sponsored by Woodland Dunes Nature Center. Annual Bird Breakfast features bird hikes and exhibits, a pancake breakfast, bird banding demonstrations, and the grand opening of Willow Trail, an excellent walk for bird watching. For more information: Jim Knickelbine or Susan Knorr at <woodlanddunes@lakefield.net>; general information about Woodland Dunes at <<http://www.woodlanddunes.com>>.

Central Wisconsin

- **Bird Research at the Waupaca Field Station**, 10 miles southwest of Waupaca at E110 Emmons Creek Road, south of Hartman Creek State Park, Saturday-Sunday, **May 14-15**; dawn to dusk, sponsored by Waupaca Field Station. In celebration of IMBD and the 31st year of bird banding at the Emmons Creek Bird Observatory and Ringing Station, the Waupaca Field Station staff and guest bird banders are again attempting to "capture" the spring migration of Neotropical migratory passerines. Live raptor program before noon Sat. Banding event focuses on families Saturday and birding enthusiasts Sunday. Compilation of banding data for 95 species in just the past five years shows how important this central Wisconsin migration route and nominated Important Bird Area is during migration. Upland habitats include oak savanna, mixed oak-pine woodland, red pine plantation, sand prairie edge, and mixed oak-walnut-elm slope to the creek bottom. Lowland habitats include alder thicket, mixed ash-maple-oak-elm "islands", and herbaceous openings and bank sides of Emmons Creek. For more information: Bob Welch and Deb Martin, Emmons Creek Bird Observatory and Ringing Station Waupaca Field Station; <welchr@execpc.com>.

North & Northwest Wisconsin

- **Crex Meadows Bird Festival**, Crex Meadows Wildlife Education and Visitor Center, Grantsburg, Saturday, **May 14**; 7 a.m. – 5 p.m., sponsored by DNR and Friends of Crex. The bird festival is your chance to learn about birds and bird management at Crex Meadows, a 30,000 acre wildlife area. The event features bird-viewing tours by foot, canoe/kayak, and bus; bird banding demonstrations, and bird programs with live raptors. Crex is well known as one of the premiere bird viewing areas in the Midwest, with more than 270 kinds of birds, including many rare and endangered species. Participants can expect to see trumpeter swans, eagles, osprey, sandhill cranes, loons, and many other species. For more information: (715) 463-Crex (2739) or events section at <<http://www.crexmeadows.org>>.
- **Warbler Walk**, North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters, Saturday, **May 14**; 6:30 – 8:30 a.m., sponsored by North Lakeland Discovery Center. Celebrate the return of our spring birds on IMBD by joining lifelong birder Jim Cramer, who will lead participants on a warbler walk along the Center's varied habitats in search of songbirds, followed by coffee and breakfast treats. We invite you to stay and lend a hand during our Volunteer Helping Hands Day, where we will be sprucing up the Center's bird feeder stations and habitat. For more information: <http://www.discoverycenter.net/community_programs.htm>.
- **2005 Birding Festival** - in celebration of the Great Wisconsin Birding & Nature Trail, North Lakeland Discovery Center, Manitowish Waters, Saturday, **May 21**; 6 a.m. – 5 p.m. (pre-registration required), sponsored by Discovery Center Bird Club in partnership with Manitowish Waters Chamber of Commerce. Explore the wonders of birding in Wisconsin's Northwoods during peak spring migration. Great Lakes area birding experts will lead trips and workshops aimed at improving birding skills, knowledge, and conservation and habitat measures. The keynote speaker is Laura Erickson. For more information: Sarah L Donahue, Environmental Education Programmer, (715) 543-2085; <sarah@discoverycenter.net> <<http://www.discoverycenter.net/events.htm>>.

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- **All About Birds**, Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center, 29270 County Hwy. G, Ashland, Saturday, **May 21**; all day; all events free and open to the public. Sponsored by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. Waterfowl viewing at the mouth of Whittlesey Creek National Wildlife Refuge (first come, first served); birding on the boardwalk; bird house building; 60 minute whooping crane film "Hope Takes Wing"; at 2 p.m. celebrate the designation of two new Important Bird Areas: the Apostle Islands and Kakagon/Bad River wetland complex and forest corridor; special presentations about birds of prey periodically throughout the day. For more information: Katie Goodwin, (715) 685-2645; katie_goodwin@fws.gov; <http://www.nglvc.org> or <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/whittleseycreek/>.
- **Bird Hike**, Silverbrook Trail head, Interstate State Park, St. Croix Falls; 7-9 a.m., Saturday, **May 14**, sponsored by National Park Service. National Park Service biologist, Robin Maercklein, will lead a 1 1/2 mile walk on the Silverbrook Trail along hardwood forest and a wet meadow. Highlights usually include migrating warblers, sedge wrens, turkey vultures, red-shouldered hawks, and a view of a bald eagle nest. The area also has a good number of blooming wildflowers. For more information: Robin Maercklein, St. Croix National Scenic Riverway, (715) 483-3284 ext. 642, robin_maercklein@nps.gov; www.nps.gov/sacn.

South & Southwest Wisconsin

- **Mississippi Flyway Birding Festival**, La Crosse, Friday-Sunday, **May 13-15**, sponsored by Upper Mississippi River Campaign & Coulee Region Audubon Society. See the flyway spring migration in progress; enjoy a Birders' social Friday night and a Birders' Banquet on Saturday night with keynote speaker Paul J. Baicich; discover the best of birding in SW Wisconsin and SE Minnesota with experienced local birding guides. Friday evening ceremony will recognize the Upper Mississippi NWR, Trempealeau NWR, Lower Kickapoo and Millville State Wildlife Areas, Kickapoo Valley Reserve, Van Loon Wildlife Area, Wyalusing State Park and Rush Creek State Natural Area as official Wisconsin Important Bird Areas. For more information: Bonnie Koop, Audubon - Upper Mississippi River Campaign, (608) 784-2992; bkoop@audubon.org; <http://couleeeaudubon.org/festival05.html>.
- **Lake Pepin Birding Field Day**, Maiden Rock & Stockholm, Saturday, **May 14**; all day, sponsored by Upper Mississippi River Campaign & West Wisconsin Land Trust. Bird Walk 7:30-9:30 in Pine Creek one mile south of Maiden Rock; 9:30 talk on Audubon Upper Mississippi River Campaign by Dan McGuiness; 11:30 falconry demonstration Maiden Rock; 1 p.m. & 2:20 p.m. U. of MN Raptor Center presentation - Stockholm. For more information: Carol Wiersma, (715) 442-9077
- **Schurch-Thomson & Underwood Prairies & Savanna Foray**, Meet at the barn at the end of Reilly Rd, Iowa County, Saturday, **May 14**; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., sponsored by The Prairie Enthusiasts. Come help us make plant checklists of the prairie, savanna, and oak woodland remnants of this 180 acre site. Plant expertise useful, but not required. Data collected will help guide management & restoration plans. Participants will also inspect the results of inter-seeding prairie into brome sod without the use of herbicide, and see & hear birds of these habitats. These are private sites owned by the Thomson and Underwood families not open to the public, so this is a rare opportunity to explore them. For more information: <http://www.theprairieenthusiasts.org>
- **Bird Walk**, La Riviere Park, Vineyard Coulee Road, Prairie du Chien, Saturday, **May 7**, sponsored by . A two hour bird walk in a 300 acre park, a mix of various habitats that provide resting and feeding areas for neo-tropic migrants moving north along the Mississippi River bluffs. For more information (608) 326-2718; kad9801@mhtc.net.
- **Big Birding Day**, Columbia, Dane, Jefferson, & Sauk Counties, Saturday, **May 14**; 4 a.m.-6 p.m. (or any time in between) - registration & fee required. Sponsored by Madison Audubon Society. Form a team of 2-6 people to scour one of four counties to see how many species you can find. Dinner, prizes, awards banquet. Fundraiser to support the conservation efforts of the Madison Audubon Society. For more information: <http://madisonaudubon.org>; Chuck Heikkinen & Delia Unson, (608) 274-4043; delia_chuck@tds.net.
- **21st Annual Honey Creek Birdathon/Bandathon & Baraboo Hills Important Bird Area Dedication**, Honey Creek, Sauk County, Sunday, **May 15**, sponsored by Wisconsin Society for Ornithology & Wisconsin Bird Conservation Initiative. Walk to the waterfall at 8:30 a.m.; bird banding throughout the day; ceremony recognizing the Baraboo Hills, which cover 144,000 acres in Sauk and Columbia counties, as the state's second Important Birding Area at 1 p.m. For more information: Carl Schwartz, cschwartz3@wi.rr.com, (414) 964-2052 or Yoyi Steele, Important Bird Area Coordinator, yoyi@uwalumni.com.

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Applications to sponsor a Deer Hunt for Persons with Disabilities due June 1

MADISON – Landowners interested in sponsoring a gun deer hunt for hunters with disabilities have until June 1, 2005 to enroll their property in the Deer Hunts for Persons with Disabilities program. This year's hunt will take place Oct. 1 through 9. Sponsor applications are available at all DNR service centers, or on the Internet at <<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/land/wildlife/hunt/deer/disap.htm>>.

The Deer Hunts for Persons with Disabilities program was established in 1990 to offer people with physical or visual disabilities an opportunity to hunt deer when temperatures are mild and mobility outdoors is less of a problem. Gun deer hunts for people with disabilities are usually conducted on private lands. Sponsor and hunter participation has steadily increased since program's inception. According to Brad Koele, DNR assistant deer ecologist, in 2004 approximately 70 sponsors enrolled more than 30,000 acres of land for the hunt.

“With the continued support and generosity of sponsors and landowners, we hope to make more land available to disabled hunters in 2005,” Koele said.

Hunters with Class A or C disabled hunting permits who are interested in participating in this hunt may request a list of 2005 hunts including location and the name of the hunt sponsor from a DNR service center after July 1. Since sponsors must provide the DNR with a list of hunters including the hunter's disabled permit number by Sept. 1, hunters are encouraged to make their arrangements as soon as possible. Disabled hunters have until Sept. 1 to contact sponsors for the Oct. 1 - 9 hunt.

Hunters must have a Class A or C disabled permit and a regular gun deer license to participate. The bag limit is one deer of either sex plus additional antlerless deer per permit. If bonus antlerless deer permits are available in the unit where the hunt is located, they may be used to bag additional antlerless deer. Hunters will also be allowed to fill their free Zone T antlerless permits (received with the purchase of their deer-related license) in 2005 Zone T units during this time period.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Brad Koele (608) 261-7589

#

Enjoy spring in Wisconsin but keep a responsible distance from wildlife

Baby animals rarely abandoned in wild

MADISON – While spring weather inspires people to get outdoors after a long cold season, it also is the time of year for birth and dispersal of many wild animals.

“Each year the Department of Natural Resources gets calls from people reporting an ‘abandoned’ young wild animal,” says Keith Warnke, a Department of Natural Resources wildlife biologist and the state’s chief deer and bear ecologist.

“These animals are rarely abandoned. Often, the mother is hidden nearby. Closely approaching or contacting wild animals presents a risk of injury to humans and the animal. For that reason, the best and safest policy for people and animals is to leave them alone.”

Animals taken in by people are likely to die because people are rarely equipped to deal with the special needs of wildlife according to wildlife experts. Additionally, the animals may have rabies or pose some other health risk to people who pick them up and try to care for them.

There’s also a legal problem – it is illegal to possess wildlife in captivity without a permit from the Department of Natural Resources, so people cannot keep wildlife as pets.

Despite these potential problems, the department’s hotline and its conservation wardens receive hundreds of calls every year from people who want to know what to do with fawns, raccoons, rabbits, and other baby animals that the callers assume have been abandoned.

In addition to new births, animals born in previous years are often dispersing, looking for new unoccupied territory after being chased away by the mother who has or will have new young to raise. The recent event near Milwaukee involving a dispersing black bear is an example of this normal wildlife behavior. The problem is, says biologist Warnke, there is only a limited amount of suitable habitat for dispersing animals and bears are capable of traveling long distances.

“With Wisconsin’s black bear population in the 10,000 to 15,000 range, finding a young black bear this far south is not a total surprise. There was one in the Madison area a couple of years ago. I’m glad that in this case, everything turned out well for both the bear and the community.”

Soon, white-tailed deer fawns will begin to show up throughout the state.

Deer give birth or “drop” their fawns in late May and early June. Warnke says people often mistakenly assume fawns have been abandoned by their mothers because the does are not in constant contact with the fawn but will return when necessary to nurse it. That’s likely part of their strategy for survival; the fawns’ spots and coloration will help protect them and the mother’s escape will divert a predator’s attention away from the fawn.

“The best thing to do if you see a fawn is to leave it alone,” Warnke says. “The mother is likely close by and she’s not going to abandon it unless she’s been killed, possibly in a car-deer collision. Also, approaching a fawn can create a trail to the animal that a predator could follow.”

Car-deer accidents are common in late May and June, so drivers should be on the alert.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Keith Warnke - (608) 264-6023

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2005 Lake Stewardship Award winners

GREEN BAY – A longtime waterfront property owner and member of the Wisconsin Association of Lakes' board of directors, the Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association in Price County, and a Douglas County couple who have been instrumental in protecting and preserving lakes in that county are among the winners of statewide lake stewardship awards.

The 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Awards were presented April 29 at the 27th annual Wisconsin Lakes Convention in Green Bay. The awards are given every year by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, collectively the Wisconsin Association of Lakes, (WAL), the Department of Natural Resources and the University of Wisconsin-Extension lakes program.

The Lake Stewardship Awards honor individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions of time and effort toward preserving and protecting Wisconsin lakes. The awards were particularly appropriate this year, says Peter Murray, WAL executive director, given the conference theme of "Water in Our Veins: Celebrating Lake Volunteers."

"These awards recognize the best of the best. Sometimes, it's difficult to choose because there are so many," Murray says, noting that this year, two individual award winners were named. "Volunteers are so important to Wisconsin lakes – to help monitor them, help maintain them, and help us all enjoy them."

The award winners and the categories in which they won are:

- **Elmer Goetsch, a waterfront property owner on the Three Lakes Chain in Oneida County**, received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his consistent and continual efforts to protect Wisconsin's legacy of lakes coupled with his leadership, hard work, and willingness to share with the community. Goetsch has spent more than 25 years serving Wisconsin's lakes on the board of directors for WAL, and in a similar role for one of its predecessor groups, the Wisconsin Federation of Lakes. He also has served on the Oneida County Board of Adjustment since 1988.
- **The Pike Lake Chain Lakes Association in Price County** received the "Group" category award for its efforts to improve the lake's water quality. The association has had an active volunteer monitoring program since 1999 and has worked closely with town government to pass an ordinance to protect lake wildlife. The group also enhanced fish and wildlife habitat through cooperative efforts with state and federal agencies, established an education program for lake property owners and users, and secured a DNR lake planning grant to create a comprehensive lake management plan.
- **Buzz Sorge, a DNR program and planning analyst stationed in Eau Claire**, received the award in the "Public Service" category. He has been a tireless proponent of sound lake management practices during his career at DNR. He has been instrumental in the success of many local lake projects and has helped develop innovative statewide initiatives such as the Lake Leaders Institute, which prepares future leaders to preserve and protect Wisconsin's waters.
- **Liberty Go-Getters 4-H Club of Manitowoc County** received the 2005 Wisconsin Lake Stewardship Award in the "Youth" category for their project to combat the invasive plant purple loosestrife in their community by raising purple loosestrife beetles and raising awareness among watershed residents of the threats posed by this harmful invasive plant.
- **Sandy and Fred Anderson, town of Gordon in Douglas County**, received a Lake Stewardship Award in the "Individual" category. They are dedicated lake stewards who have been instrumental in protecting and preserving lakes in Douglas County and throughout Wisconsin. Their active and effective involvement in the political process; their efforts to educate the community and public officials about lakes and lake issues; their commitment to the success of local lake organizations; and their dedicated volunteerism make them exemplary lake leaders.
- **Wayne Towne of Keshena** also received a Lake Stewardship Award in the "Individual" category. He has been active with local groups dedicated to the protection of Legend Lake in Menominee County for more than 20 years. The retired teacher's enthusiasm for lake protection has proven to be infectious, as he has encouraged the involvement of dozens of others in local lake protection efforts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Jeff Bode - (608) 266-0502 or
Peter Murray, WAL - (608) 662-0923

Plans proposed to clean up 22 polluted waterways in Wisconsin***Public has until June 3 to comment on proposed cleanup plans***

MADISON – The public has an opportunity to comment on two proposed plans to clean up separate water bodies in Wisconsin that currently do not meet state water quality standards. The plans set levels for how much pollution the individual water bodies can receive from all sources – known as a Total Maximum Daily Load, or TMDL – and still support designated aquatic life and recreational uses.

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has developed TMDL plans for Becky Creek, a tributary of the Chippewa River in Rusk County, and for 21 tributary streams to the Sugar and Pecatonica rivers in Dane, Iowa, Green and Lafayette counties.

The plans spell out how much different sources of pollution must reduce pollution levels, along with strategies for reaching those goals and ongoing monitoring efforts, according to Jim Baumann, DNR TMDL coordinator.

As part of the review and submittal process for TMDLs, a 30-day public comment period begins May 3 and ends on June 3, 2005 for both proposals.

The TMDL for Becky Creek addresses sedimentation and degraded habitat impairment conditions. The DNR will work in conjunction with the Rusk County Land Conservation Department to monitor Becky Creek throughout the project implementation, which is due to end in 2007. Each of the impaired streams in the Sugar-Pecatonica river basin is addressed, but they have been grouped together, Bauman says, because they share the same watershed characteristics, soils, and types of land use, and are impaired by excessive sedimentation.

People can view and comment on the most recent TMDL reports on the DNR Web site at http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/Draft_TMDLs.html.

Copies of the plans are available from Baumann at: Wisconsin DNR WT/2, PO Box 7921, Madison WI 53707 or by calling (608) 266-9277 or e-mailing <james.baumann@wi.dnr.state.wi.us>.

(more)

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Watershed Management
Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL)
for Impaired Waters in Wisconsin DNR
Public Notice

May 3, 2005

Section 303(d)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. §1313(d)(1)(C), and the implementing regulation of the US Environmental Protection Agency [EPA, 40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)], require the establishment of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for waters identified as impaired pursuant to §303(d)(1)(A) of the CWA. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed a proposed sediment TMDL for the following identified §303(d)(1)(A) water: Becky Creek in northern Rusk County, Wisconsin, in the Upper Chippewa River Basin.

Section 303(d)(1) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), 33 U.S.C. §1313(d)(1)(C), and the implementing regulation of the US Environmental Protection Agency [EPA, 40 C.F.R. §130.7(c)(1)], require the establishment of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for waters identified as impaired pursuant to §303(d)(1)(A) of the CWA. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has developed proposed sediment TMDLs for the identified §303(d)(1)(A) waters listed below in portions of Dane, Iowa, Green and Lafayette Counties, Wisconsin, in the Sugar – Pecatonica River Basin:

German Valley Branch
Henry Creek
Pleasant Valley Branch
Syftestad Creek
Argus School Branch
Braezels Branch
Buckskin School Branch

Burgy Creek
Dougherty Creek
Jockey Hollow Creek
Legler School Branch
Pioneer Valley Creek
Prairie Brook
Searles Creek

Silver School Branch
Spring Creek
Twin Grove Branch
Apple Branch
Cherry Branch
Dodge Branch
Silver Spring Creek

A copy of the proposed set of TMDLs is available at:

[<http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/>](http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/water/wm/wqs/303d/)

Upon review of public comment and revision, if necessary, the Department will submit these TMDLs to the EPA for approval as final. Persons wishing to comment on the proposed TMDL are invited to submit comments in writing (by mail or e-mail) no later than June 3, 2005 to:

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Bureau of Watershed Management
PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707-7921
Attn: Jim Baumann, WT/2
James.Baumann@dnr.state.wi.us

People may contact Baumann at (608) 266-9277 with questions. Copies of the TMDL may be obtained from this web site or by calling, writing, or e-mailing the number or addresses listed above. Comments received will be provided to the EPA in a summary of public comment and Wisconsin DNR responses.

OUTDOORS CALENDAR

* Indicates date remains the same each year, except some permit deadlines may be extended one day if they fall on a Sunday or Federal Holiday.

April 15 through July 31 - It is illegal to allow dogs to run on DNR lands and Federal Waterfowl Production Areas lands during this time unless the dog is on a leash no longer than 8 feet. Does not apply to class 1 field trial grounds or DNR lands open to dog training.

May 4-8 - Spring turkey hunting period D

May 7

- General inland waters game fish opener (trout, walleye, northern pike, bass in the southern zone). Check current Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations pamphlet for exceptions regarding specific game species and waters.
- Catch and release only bass season opens through June 14 in the northern zone.
- Muskellunge season in waters south of State Highway 10 opens:

May 11 - 15 - Spring turkey hunting period E

May 18- 22 - Spring turkey hunting period F:

May 20 - Yellow perch season opens on Green Bay, the Fox River and other Green Bay tributaries through March 15 with a bag limit of 10. Yellow perch season on Lake Michigan opens June 16.*

May 28 - Muskellunge season opens north of State Highway 10.

June 4 - 5 - Free Fishing Weekend. No license or stamps required to fish inland waters or outlying Wisconsin waters of the Great Lakes and Mississippi and St. Croix rivers. All bag and size limits and other regulations apply.

June 5 - State Parks Open House Day – free admission to all state parks, forests and trails.

June 16 - Yellow perch season opens on Lake Michigan with a bag limit of five (5).*

June 18 - Northern zone bass season goes from catch-and-release to daily bag limits. Check current regulations for bag and size limits.

July 1 - Training dogs by pursuing bear allowed through August 31. (Note exception on DNR lands; see current Wisconsin bear hunting regulations for rules.)*

July 15 - Turtle season opens statewide through Nov. 30 for those species that are not listed as endangered or threatened.*

August 1

- Hunter's Choice application deadline.*
- Fall turkey hunting applications due.*
- Deadline for successful applicants to purchase Class A Bear License.*
- Deadline to apply for goose hunting permits for the Collins and Horicon zones.*
- Sharp-tailed grouse permit application due.*

August 31 - Bear dog training by pursuing bear closes. It is illegal to train dogs from April 15 through July 31 on DNR lands, unless dogs are on a leash no longer than 8 feet, except for Class 1 field trail grounds or for bear dog training on DNR lands other than state parks after July 1.*

DNR Meetings and Hearings Calendar

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, reasonable accommodations, including the provision of informational material in an alternative format, will be provided for qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Please call the contact person listed for the meeting or hearing with specific information on your request at least 10 days before the date of the scheduled hearing.

MEETINGS

May 3 - A DNR Advisory Workgroup for Landfill Stability will meet at 1 p.m. in the Raptor Room at the DNR South Central Region Headquarters, 3911 Fish Hatchery Road, Fitchburg. The group will discuss ways to reduce the risks posed by landfills due to decomposition of organic wastes. For information contact Brad Wolbert at (608) 275-7769.

May 3 – Functional Equivalency meeting from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in room 606 of the Natural Resources building at 101 S. Webster St., **Madison**. For those connecting by phone, the call in number is (608) 316-0022. There is also a toll free number (888) 677-9189. The access code for the call is 3993#. For more information, contact Mark McDermid at (608) 267-3125.

May 3, 4, 5, 9 - Four open house informational meetings are scheduled from 3:30 - 8 p.m. to provide information, answer questions, and collect written and verbal testimony from the public regarding the [Draft Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan and EIS](#). with public hearings to begin concurrently at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Robert Dall at (715) 365-8993. Meeting will be held at the following locations:

May 3, Neenah - Neenah Public Library - Shattuck Meeting Room, 240 E. Wisconsin Ave.

May 4, Fitchburg - Fitchburg Community Center - Oak Hall Room, 5510 Lacy Road.

May 5, Boulder Junction - Boulder Junction Community Center 5386 Park Street (just off County Hwy. M)

May 9, Wausau - Wausau Park Inn 2101 N. Mountain Road.

May 6 - The Alternate Regulatory Tools Workgroup (workgroup 8) of the Air Permit Improvement Initiative, APII, will meet by teleconference from 10 a.m. to noon originating from the Department of Commerce, 201 W. Washington Ave., **Madison**. The purpose is to develop the Workbook for the Environmental Results Program pilot. For more information, please call Renee Lesjak Bashel (608) 264-6153.

May 10 – Functional Equivalency meeting from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in room 6076 of the Natural Resources building at 101 S. Webster St., **Madison**. For more information, contact Mark McDermid at (608) 267-3125

May 11 - Implementation and Oversight Committee of the [Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan](#) (HCP) will meet to work on program improvements and strategic direction. The meeting will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Schmeckle Reserve in Steven's Point. Contact: Jaime M. Thibodeaux, Division of Forestry (608) 267-9680.

May 11 - The DNR will be conducting a bus and canoe tour in the Milwaukee River basin. Registration will begin at 7:45 a.m. at 2300 N Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The bus will leave promptly at 8 a.m. The bus tour highlights include: a visit to Kinnickinnic River; drive through Lincoln Parkway; visit to Trinity Creek (Mequon); and sturgeon stocking at Lime Kiln Park (Grafton); the afternoon canoe trip will be on the Milwaukee River. Members of the Milwaukee River Revitalization Council, board members from the Milwaukee River Basin Partnership, and representatives from many other public and private organizations with a stake in the Milwaukee River have been invited. The tour should conclude Milwaukee no later than 6:30 p.m. Space availability on the bus and canoes are limited. Please contact Robb Lukes (414)263-8498 or Michelle Lehner (414)263-8752 for more information.

May 11 - The Research Committee of the Wisconsin Invasive Species Council will meet from 1 to 3:30 p.m., in Room 211 of the Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection Building, 2811 Agriculture Drive, **Madison**. Agenda item will be deciding on how the biological and management-related parameters approved at the last full council meeting should be implemented into recommendations of invasiveness categories. For information contact Melody Walker, DATCP Pest Survey & Control Section Chief at (608) 224-4586.

May 12 - The **Rules & Resolutions Committee** of the [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) will meet at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave., **Manitowoc** at 1:30 p.m. regarding matters concerning natural resources issues or resolutions referred from the Spring Hearings. For information contact AnnMarie Kutzke at (608) 266-2952.

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May 12 - The **Executive Council** of the [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) will meet at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave., **Manitowoc** at 7 p.m. regarding matters concerning natural resources issues or resolutions referred from the Spring Hearings or pertinent season results or possible regulation changes or internal operations as specified in the Wisconsin Statutes and Code of Procedures. For information contact AnnMarie Kutzke at (608) 266-2952.

May 13 - The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public informational meeting to review the ambient air quality monitoring network throughout Wisconsin. The meeting will be held at 10 a.m. in Room 709, of the Natural Resources building at 101 S. Webster St., **Madison**. For more information, contact Bruce Rodger at (608) 266-1722.

May 13 - The Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council (GCC) will meet from noon to 3 p.m. in the Conference Room at the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey, 3817 Mineral Point Road in **Madison**. The GCC will hear Subcommittee reports, receive updates on agency groundwater activities and programs, and discuss funding priorities for the annual groundwater research and monitoring solicitation. There will also be a technical presentation TBA. Contact Tim Asplund (608) 267-7449 or by e-mail at <tim.asplund@dnr.state.wi.us> for more information or view updated agenda information at <<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/dwg/gcc/events.htm>>.

May 13-14 - The **Annual Convention** of the [Wisconsin Conservation Congress](#) will meet at the Holiday Inn, 4601 Calumet Ave., **Manitowoc** at 8:30 a.m. regarding matters concerning natural resources issues or resolutions referred from the Spring Hearings or pertinent season results or possible regulation changes or Department of Natural Resources program responsibilities or internal operations as specified in the Wisconsin Statutes and Code of Procedures. For information contact AnnMarie Kutzke at (608) 266-2952.

May 16, 23, 25 & June 7 - The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, National Park Service, and Ice Age Park and Trail Foundation, will hold an open house for the public to review the preliminary plans for a corridor for the Ice Age National Scenic Trail Lake Michigan Ice Age Trail Segment. A corridor map, more information and comment forms are available on the DNR Web site at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/master_planning/lmiat/open_house_materials/>. For more information contact Jeff Prey at (608) 266-2182. All of the open houses will run from 4 to 7 p.m.

May 16 - **Montpelier** Town Hall, E0704 JJ Road

May 23 - Elkhart Lake Village Hall, 40 Pine St., **Elkhart Lake**.

May 25 - Manitowoc Public Library, 707 Quay St. **Manitowoc**

June 7 - Liberty Town Hall, 13812 English Lake Road, **Manitowoc County**.

May 18 - The St. Croix Basin Partners Team will hold its quarterly meeting from 9 a.m. to noon at Café Wren, Hwy. 35. North, in Luck. Member Scott Peterson, Friends of the St. Croix Headwaters, will address local efforts to protect the headwaters of the St. Croix River. Paul Kooiker, DNR area wildlife manager, will provide an update on the state acquisition of the Straight Lake property in Polk County. Tammy Wittmer, St. Croix County Land Conservation Department, will show how to make a rainbarrel. The team is made up of citizens and public agencies that focus energy and resources on enhancing the quality of the environment and quality of life within the St. Croix River Watershed. The basin includes all or parts of St. Croix, Pierce, Polk, Burnett, Washburn, Douglas, Sawyer, Barron, and Bayfield counties. Interested citizens are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Patti Buck, Partner Team Facilitator, (715) 635-4029.

May 19 - Functional Equivalency meeting from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in room 606 in the Natural Resources building at 101 S. Webster St., **Madison**. For more information, contact Mark McDermid at (608) 267-3125.

May 19 - The Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection building (Rm. 266) located at 2811 Agriculture Dr. in **Madison**. This will be the Council's quarterly meeting to discuss upcoming Wisconsin urban forestry issues & events. For more information, call Nathan Eisner at (608) 264-8852.

May 21 - An informational meeting on the management of the Flambeau River State Forest will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the Phillips Public Library, 286 Cherry St., **Phillips**. The public is invited to come and discuss recent updates and changes taking place on the forest. This meeting will provide the opportunity to voice any comments and/or concerns regarding the Flambeau River State Forest. For more information, contact Jim Halvorson at (715) 332-5271 ext. 105.

(more)

May 21 - There will be an annual meeting to review management of the Peshtigo River State Forest at 9 a.m. at the Stephenson Town Hall, W11280 Cty TK "X", **Crivitz**. For more information, contact Dan Mertz at (715) 757-3965.

HEARINGS

May 3 – A continued public hearing in the matter of an air pollution control construction permit issued to Madison-Kipp Corporation, located in Madison. The hearing will continue at 9 a.m. in the Hearing Room of the Division of Hearings and Appeals, 5005 University Avenue, Suite 201, **Madison**. For more information, contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

May 3, 4, 5, 9 - Four open house informational meetings are scheduled from 3:30 - 8 p.m. to provide information, answer questions, and collect written and verbal testimony from the public regarding the [Draft Northern Highland-American Legion State Forest Master Plan and EIS](#). With public hearings to begin concurrently at 6 p.m. For more information, contact Robert Dall at (715) 365-8993. Meeting will be held at the following locations:

May 3, Neenah - Neenah Public Library - Shattuck Meeting Room, 240 E. Wisconsin Ave.

May 4, Fitchburg - Fitchburg Community Center - Oak Hall Room, 5510 Lacy Road.

May 5, Boulder Junction - Boulder Junction Community Center 5386 Park Street (just off County Hwy. M)

May 9, Wausau - Wausau Park Inn 2101 N. Mountain Road.

May 11, 12, 13 - the Department of Natural Resources will hold public hearings on proposed Natural Resources Board Order No. WA-10-05 to repeal and recreate chs. NR 590 and NR 600 to 690, Wis. Adm. Code, regulating the generation, transportation, recycling, treatment, storage and disposal of used oil, universal waste and hazardous waste. The proposed rules define the types of materials that are regulated as hazardous waste, universal waste and used oil. The rules describe the standards that apply to anyone who generates, transports or recycles these wastes, as well as to the facilities that treat, store and dispose of the wastes. Generators of hazardous waste are subject to a varying degree of regulation depending on the amounts and types of waste generated. Hazardous waste transporters are subject to licensing requirements and operating standards. Owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities are subject to licensing requirements that include department review and approval, and input from the public before receiving a license to operate the facilities. Recyclers of hazardous waste are conditionally exempt from most of the facility licensing requirements to encourage the recycling and reuse of hazardous waste that would otherwise be sent for disposal. The proposed rules increase the hazardous waste plan review, license and manifest fees. The majority of the proposed fee increases represent about a 3 percent increase per year since 1994 to account for inflation, although some proposed fees represent a higher percentage increase and some fees are decreasing or being eliminated. In addition, the proposed rules create a per vehicle fee for vehicles under a Hazardous Waste Transportation Service License and increase the manifest fee from \$2 to \$6 per manifest. For more information, contact Pat Chabot at (608) 264-6015. Four public hearings will be held on:

- **May 11** - 9 a.m. in Room 413, of the state Natural Resources Building (GEF 2), 101 South Webster St., **Madison**
- **May 12** - 2:30 p.m **Video conference participation available at:**
Room 139, State Office Building, 718 W. Clairemont Ave., **Eau Claire**
Room 220, Main Building, UW-Marathon Center, 518 S. 7th Ave., **Wausau**
- **May 13** - 9 a.m. in Room 151, State Office Building, 141 NW Barstow St., **Waukesha**

May 12 - The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing on the repeal and recreation of s. NR 46.30(2)(a) to (c), Wis. Adm. Code, relating to the administration of the Forest Crop Law and Managed Forest Law. Sections 77.06(2) and 77.91, Stats., require that the Department establish stumpage rates (values) used in calculating severance and yield taxes on timber harvested from land enrolled in the Forest Crop Law (FCL) and the Managed Forest Law (MCL). This rule would repeal and recreate s. NR 46.30(2)(a) to (c) to revise the stumpage values to be used in calculating severance taxes and yield taxes for timber harvested during the period of November 1, 2005 and October 31, 2006. Thirteen separate zones reflect varying stumpage values for different species and products across the state. The average change for sawtimber is a 0.6% increase over current rates. The pulpwood prices, on average, would decrease 0.06%. The hearing will be held at 10 a.m. at the Wausau Service Center, 5301 Rib Mountain Drive, **Wausau**. For more information, contact carol Nielsen at (608) 266-8019.

(more)

May 16 – 18 - A contested case hearing in the matter of the application of American Transmission Company and Wisconsin Public Service Corporation for permits to remove materials and place bridges and related structures on navigable waters and for water quality certification relating to wetlands in connection with placement of electric transmission lines located in several Wisconsin Counties. The hearing will commence at 12:45 (for public comment and company and other fact witnesses), in the Banquet Room of the Hayward Veterans Association, 10534 Main St., **Hayward**. The hearing will continue on **June 20 – 24, 2005** (for all expert testimony) at the same location. For more information, contact the Division of Hearings and Appeals at (608) 266-7709.

May 16 - The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing on Natural Resources Board Emergency Order No. FH-16-05(E) pertaining to the creation of NR 328, subch. III, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to shore erosion control on rivers and streams. This emergency order takes effect on May 1, 2005. The purpose of this emergency order is to establish two general permits with appropriate conditions, and to establish standards for projects that may be authorized under an individual permit. There are no statutory exemptions for the placement of shore erosion control on the banks of rivers and streams. Standards for general permits and individual permits in this section are based on the science of fluvial geomorphology for determining erosive conditions at a site. Fluvial geomorphology involves studying the influence of flowing surface water on stream channels through the processes of erosion and deposition. This order establishes general permits for biological erosion control and integrated bank protection on waterways less than 35 feet wide and allows placement of these structures in "areas of special natural resource interest". The hearing will be held at 1 p.m. in room 413, of the Natural Resources building at 101 South Webster St., **Madison**. For more information, contact Liesa Lehmann at (608) 266-2997.

May 17 - The Department of Natural Resources will hold a public hearing on revisions to chs. NR 10, 12, 16, 17 and 19, Wis. Adm. Code, relating to permitting and applications, hunting, trapping, captive wildlife, agricultural damage and nuisance wildlife. These rule changes are minor in nature and non-controversial. The Department is proposing changes that clarify current rules, update definitions, increase management efficiency and alter limitations on hunters. This rule:

- Clarifies that cylinder loading black powder handguns may be used for hunting species other than deer or bear
- Clarifies that doves are included under the definition of migratory game birds
- Clarifies that a waterfowl blind also must be partially concealed when waterfowl hunting
- Creates a definition for rifle
- Clarifies that hen pheasants held under ch. 29 or 169, Stats., authority are not considered protected
- Clarifies that those unprotected species identified in ch. 169, Stats., may be taken live from the wild
- Codifies the department position that pigeons are not considered wild animals
- Clarifies that air guns may not be used for deer or bear hunting
- Updates references to the submission of special permit applications necessary due to modified hours of operation for service centers
- Codifies the issuance of special permits for those who incorrectly tag a deer
- Clarifies that a structure, for the purposes of dry land body gripping type traps, is a single unit or structure
- Updates rule language pertaining to use of cable restraints
- Clarifies rules pertaining to turkey tagging and tag validation
- Clarifies wildlife damage program regulations

The hearing will be held at 1 p.m. in room 511, of the Natural Resources building at 101 South Webster St., **Madison**. For more information call Kurt Thiede at (608) 267-2452.

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Department of Natural Resources – CE/6
PO Box 7921 Madison WI 53707-7921

Garlic mustard invading Wisconsin's woodlands

Now is time to pull this invasive plant

Garlic mustard, *Alliaria petiolata*, is an invasive plant currently invading forests throughout southern and eastern Wisconsin. It is a biennial herb that ranges from 2 to 40 inches in height as an adult flowering plant. Second-year plants generally produce one or two flowering stems with numerous white flowers that have four separate petals. The first flowers open in late April to early May. It is easily recognized this time of year because of its lush leaves and because it is the only plant of its height in forests that produces white flowers. Landowners need to get an early start on controlling garlic mustard. Hand-pulling is the easiest and most effective way to control new or small populations. For information go to DNR Web site, click the search button and type garlic mustard.

